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Reply to Office Action of August 2, 2004

### C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which allowance is requested. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for regulating use of a telephone line, comprising:

detecting an identity of a caller requesting use of a telephone line to place an outgoing call; and

only allowing use of said telephone line to place said outgoing call by said caller if a schedule for said telephone line indicates that said caller identity is currently allowed to place said outgoing call.

2. (Original) The method for regulating use according to claim 1, wherein detecting an identity further comprises:

detecting said identity of said caller from a voice authentication.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for regulating use according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting an estimated time for [a] said outgoing call requested by said caller; and

filtering said schedule according to said estimated time for said outgoing call.

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4. **(Currently Amended)** The method for regulating use according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a subject for [a] said outgoing call requested by said caller; and

filtering said schedule according to said subject for said outgoing call.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method for regulating use according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting an amount of points available to said caller for placing [a] said outgoing call;

and

filtering said schedule according to said amount of points available for said outgoing call and an amount of points required for at least one portion of said schedule.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method for regulating use according to claim 1, further comprising:

controlling output of a message to said caller indicating at least one from among a reason for a blocking said telephone line, a next available time for use of said telephone line to place said outgoing call, and an amount of time available for use of said telephone line to place said outgoing call.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method for regulating use according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing said caller with an option for reserving a call appointment in said schedule to place said outgoing call.

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8. **(Currently Amended)** A system for regulating use of a telephone line, comprising:

a telephone line for enabling communication via a communication system;

means for detecting an identity of a caller requesting use of said telephone line to place an outgoing call; and

means for only allowing use of said telephone line by said caller to place said outgoing call if a schedule for said telephone line indicates that said caller identity is currently allowed to place said outgoing call.

9. **(Original)** The system for regulating use according to claim 8, wherein said means for detecting an identity further comprises:

means for detecting said identity of said caller from a voice authentication.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The system for regulating use according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for detecting an estimated time for [a] said outgoing call requested by said caller;  
and

means for filtering said schedule according to said estimated time for said outgoing call.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The system for regulating use according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for detecting a subject for [a] said outgoing call requested by said caller; and  
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means for filtering said schedule according to said subject for said outgoing call.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The system for regulating use according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for detecting an amount of points available to said caller for placing [a] said outgoing call; and

means for filtering said schedule according to said amount of points available for said outgoing call and an amount of points required for at least one portion of said schedule.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The system for regulating use according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for controlling output of a message to said caller indicating at least one from among a reason for a blocking said telephone line, a next available time for use of said telephone line to place said outgoing call, and an amount of time available for use of said telephone line to place said outgoing call.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The system for regulating use according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for providing said caller with an option for reserving a call appointment in said schedule to place said outgoing call.

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15. **(Currently Amended)** A program for regulating use of a telephone line, comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting an identity of a caller requesting use of a telephone line to place an outgoing call; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only allowing use of said telephone line by said caller to place said outgoing call if a schedule for said telephone line indicates that said caller identity is currently allowed to place said outgoing call.

16. **(Original)** The program for regulating use according to claim 15, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting said identity of said caller from a voice authentication.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The program for regulating use according to claim 15, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting an estimated time for [a] said outgoing call requested by said caller; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for filtering said schedule according to said estimated time for said outgoing call.

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18. **(Currently Amended)** The program for regulating use according to claim 15, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting a subject for [a] said outgoing call requested by said caller; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for filtering said schedule according to said subject for said outgoing call.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The program for regulating use according to claim 15, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting an amount of points available to said caller for placing [a] said outgoing call; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for filtering said schedule according to said amount of points available for said outgoing call and an amount of points required for at least one portion of said schedule.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The program for regulating use according to claim 15, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for controlling output of a message to said caller indicating at least one from among a reason for a blocking said telephone line, a next available time for use of said telephone line to place said outgoing call, and an amount of time available for use of said telephone line to place said outgoing call.

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21. **(Currently Amended)** The program for regulating use according to claim 15, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for providing said caller with an option for reserving a call appointment in said schedule to place said outgoing call.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A method for regulating use of a telephone line requested by a plurality of parties, comprising:

detecting an identity of a first caller requesting use of a telephone line to place a first outgoing call; and

comparing said identity of said first caller with a schedule for at least one other caller concurrently requesting use of a telephone line to place a second outgoing call; and

only allowing said first caller use of said telephone line to place said first outgoing call if a schedule for said telephone line indicates that said first caller currently has priority for use of said telephone line.

23. **(Original)** The method for regulating use of a telephone line according to claim 9, further comprising:

controlling said telephone line from a private switching network.

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24. **(Currently Amended)** A system for regulating use of a telephone line requested by a plurality of parties, comprising:

a telephone line for enabling communication via a communication system;

means for detecting an identity of a first caller requesting use of said telephone line to place a first outgoing call; and

means for comparing said identity of said first caller with a schedule for at least one other caller concurrently requesting use of a telephone line to place a second outgoing call; and

means for only allowing said first caller use of said telephone line to place said first outgoing call if a schedule for said telephone line indicates that said first caller currently has priority for use of said telephone line.

25. **(Original)** The system for regulating use of a telephone line according to claim 9, wherein said communication system comprises a private switching network.

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26. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product for regulating use of a telephone line requested by a plurality of parties, comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting an identity of a first caller requesting use of a telephone line to place a first outgoing call; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for comparing said identity of said first caller with a schedule for at least one other caller concurrently requesting use of a telephone line to place a second outgoing call; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only allowing said first caller use of said telephone line to place said first outgoing call if a schedule for said telephone line indicates that said first caller currently has priority for use of said telephone line.

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